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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/712,085	11/14/2000	Bruce S. Williamson	KCX-224 (15065)	8779
7590	05/12/2005			
Stephen E Bondura Esquire Dority & Manning P A Post Office Box 1449 Greenville, SC 29602-1449			EXAMINER CINTINS, IVARS C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1724	

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/712,085

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMSON ET AL.

Examiner

Ivars C. Cintins

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 1724

Prosecution before the Primary Examiner is hereby reopened, and the Final Rejection dated June 29, 2004 is withdrawn.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11-14, 17, 19, 20, 22-24 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Ruger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,122,270; hereinafter “Ruger”). See Figs. 1-5; col. 2, lines 65-68; col. 3, lines 23-43; col. 5, lines 1-18, 36-50 and 66-68; and col. 6, line 29.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruger. The reference discloses the claimed invention with the exception of the use of a fourth filter media. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a fourth filtration material in the reference device, in order to further vary the filtration characteristics of this device. Such modification is deemed to be especially obvious since Ruger refers to the plurality of filtration zones as “12a, 12b, 12c ...” (see col. 5, line 45), and further teaches that the type and number of mutually surrounding and

Art Unit: 1724

mutually radially disposed filtration zones can be “chosen in accordance with the intended use of the filter cartridge” (col. 5, lines 46-50).

Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruger in view of Hiasa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,607,595; hereinafter “Hiasa”). Ruger discloses the claimed invention with the exception of the presence of activated carbon in the filtration media. Hiasa et al. teaches filtering a fluid through a sheet of activated carbon fibers (see col. 6, lines 14-15). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the activated carbon of Hiasa into the filtration material of Ruger, in order to provide the purification functions associated with activated carbon for the filtration device of this primary reference. Such modification is deemed to be especially obvious in view of the disclosure by Ruger that the filter element of this reference can have “an adsorption characteristic” (see col. 2, lines 66-67).

Applicant's arguments presented in the brief filed on February 17, 2005 have been noted and carefully considered, but no longer appear to be relevant in view of the new grounds of rejection.


Colvin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,048,075) shows a similar spirally wound filter cartridge (see Fig. 2; and col. 3, lines 11-14).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to I. Cintins whose telephone number is (571) 272-1155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Duane Smith, can be reached at (571) 272-1166.

Art Unit: 1724

The centralized facsimile number for the USPTO is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Ivars C. Cintins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

I. Cintins
May 10, 2005